

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for extending food dough comprising a lower frame having a food-conveying member to convey food dough in one generally horizontal direction,
an upper frame located above the lower frame,
a cluster of a plurality of extending rollers located within the upper frame, said extending rollers being arranged to be endless and rotatable and in cooperation with the food-conveying member to extend food dough conveyed by the food-conveying member, and

means for moving the upper frame and the cluster of the plurality of extending rollers located therein in an up and down direction and toward and away from the lower frame and the food-conveying member located therein so that the cluster of the plurality of extending rollers can be moved ~~vertically~~ upwardly and away from the food-conveying member.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the food-conveying member includes a feeding-in conveyor for feeding food dough between the cluster of extending rollers and the food-conveying member, a part of the feeding-in conveyor being guided by a belt-guiding member that is inclined so that a downstream end of the feeding-in conveyor is lower than an upstream end thereof, said part of the feeding-in conveyor being opposed to the cluster of extending rollers.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 or 2, wherein the food-conveying member includes a feeding-out conveyor for receiving extended food dough and conveying downstream food dough that has been extended, a part of the feeding-out conveyor being guided by a belt-guiding member that is inclined so that a downstream end of the feeding-out conveyor is higher than an upstream end thereof, said part of the feeding-out conveyor being opposed to the cluster of extending rollers.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said food-conveying member includes a feeding-in conveyor to feed in food dough and a feeding-out conveyor to feed out extended food dough, belt-guiding members located to guide parts of the feeding-in and feeding-out conveyors so that the parts are inclined, said parts being opposed to the cluster of extending rollers, first and second conveying rollers located between the belt-guiding members so that the first and second conveying rollers are opposed to the cluster of extending rollers, wherein the distance between the first conveying roller and the cluster of extending rollers is less than that between the inclined part of the feeding-in conveyor and the cluster of extending rollers, the distance between the second conveying roller and the cluster of extending rollers is less than that between the first conveying roller and the cluster of extending rollers, and the distance between the inclined part of the feeding-out conveyor and the cluster of extending rollers is less than that between the second conveying roller and the cluster of extending rollers.

5-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the upper frame is pivotally mounted to the lower frame to permit the plurality of extending rollers to be moved ~~vertically~~ upwardly and away from the food-conveying member.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the upper frame is pivotally mounted to the lower frame at a downstream part of the food-conveying member.